

TRAVEL

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

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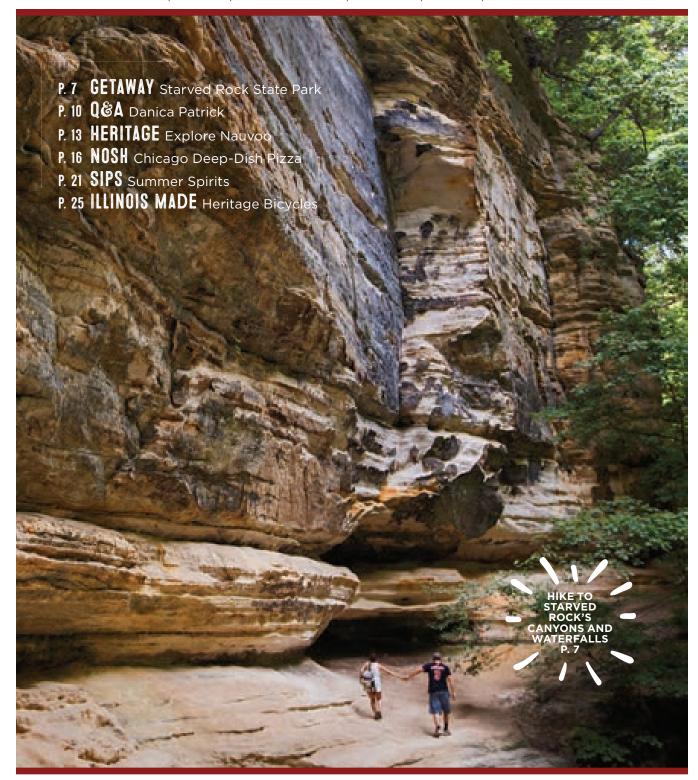






GUIDEBOOK

GETAWAY | Q&A | HERITAGE | NOSH | SIPS | ILLINOIS MADE



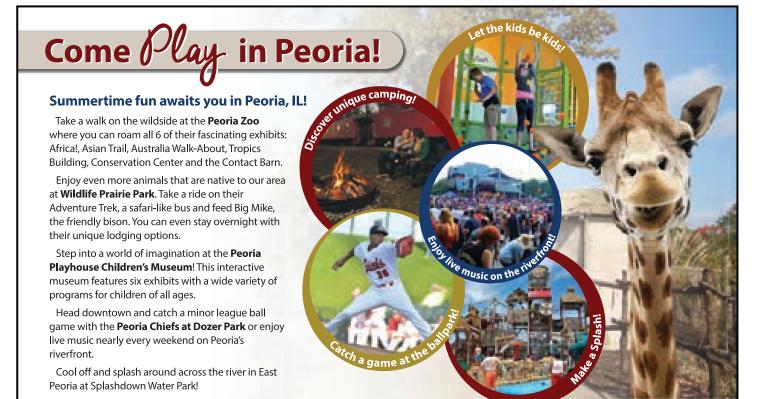




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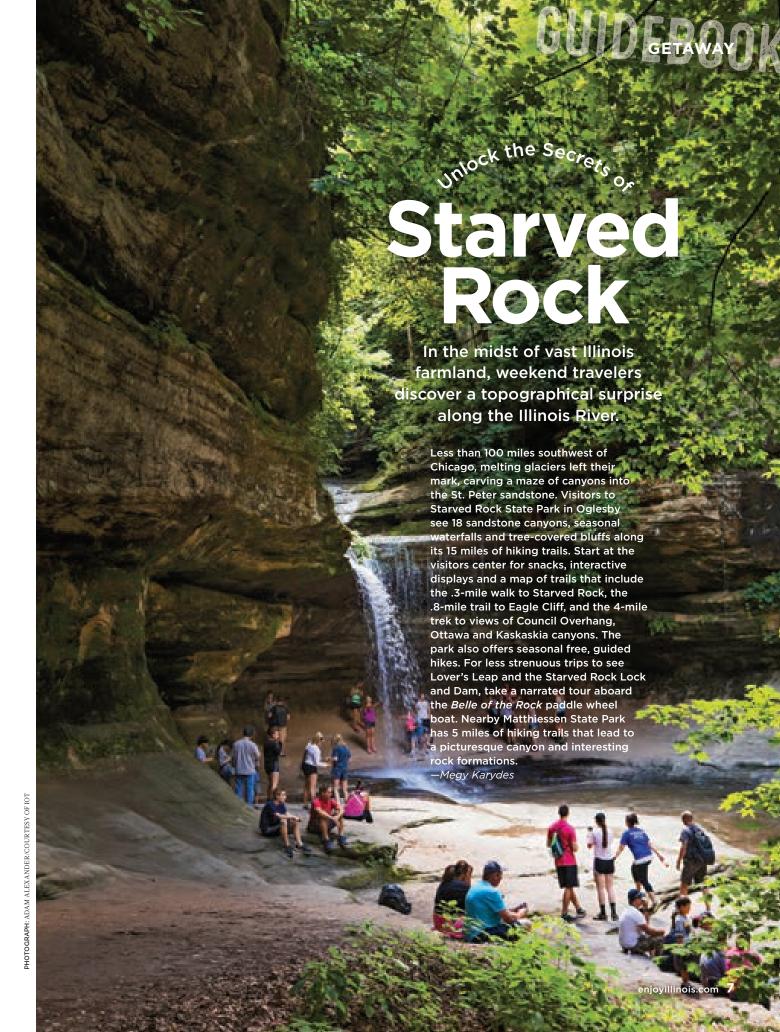






Visit our website for a complete list of area attractions, accommodations, events, restaurants, shops, visitor services & more





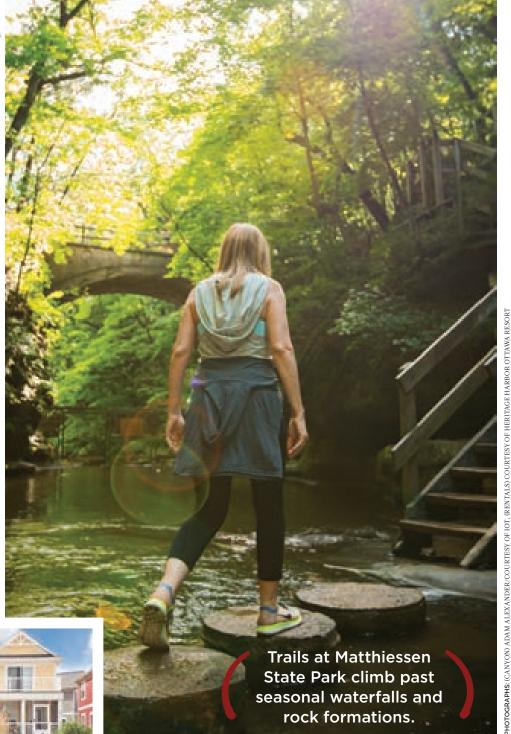
AFTER HOURS

Guests at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center choose between rustic hotel rooms or log cabins in the woods. Finish the day with a burger and a Starved Rock Signature Ale while listening to live music at the Veranda on Fridays and Saturdays. In nearby Ottawa, Heritage Harbor offers vacation cottages for rent.

OFF-SITE ADVENTURES

The Illinois and Michigan Canal was built in the mid-1800s to connect the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River by way of the Illinois River. Today, more than 60 miles of preserved towpath from Rockdale to LaSalle form the multiuse Illinois and Michigan Canal State Trail. Hikers and bikers see historic sites, numerous state parks and river views with wildlife.

For a different vantage point of the river, try the 90-minute I & M Canal Mule-Pulled Boat Ride in LaSalle. Mules Joe and Moe pull the replica canal boat, while guides dressed in period attire take you on the same journey as 19thcentury pioneers.





Hide away in a private vacation cottage at Heritage Harbor (left).

MUST-TRY

BURGERS AND BUBBLES

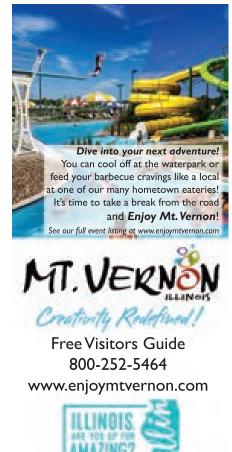
Fuel up in Ottawa's Burger and Sushi House (B.A.S.H.), with specialties such as the Crabby Patty burger (with crab rangoon mix, sweet-nsour and fried wontons) or a Shrimp Tempura roll. Across

the river, Illinois Sparkling Company uses locally grown grapes to create bubbly wines in the town of Peru. To sample their five wines, head 12 miles east to their tasting room in North Utica.

seasonal waterfalls and rock formations.









O Questions for Danica **Patrick**

Driving the No. 10 car for Stewart-Haas Racing. this NASCAR driver dishes on singing in the car, her boyfriend's driving and her love of Chicago.

BY HEIDI KIEC

Q: When you think about home, what are you envisioning?

: The house on Briarwood Lane in Roscoe (12 miles north of Rockford), where I grew up. I think about being in a neighborhood with kids. Back then, you got to ride your bicycle around the neighborhood by yourself. You knew the other kids and hung out with them.

Q: Away from the racetrack, who drives?

: I let (fellow NASCAR driver Ricky Stenhouse Jr.) drive most of the time because I don't like speeding tickets and I can't stop myself from speeding.

Q: And he can?

: Yeah, he drives very slow. I was just making fun of him this morning on the way to the track. He was in the slow lane and behind a bus. He never got over.

Q: What's your favorite song to sing when nobody's listening?

: I sing anything with anyone in the car. If I know it, I sing it.

Q: When you're singing in the car, where do you like to drive in Illinois?

: Lake Shore Drive in Chicago is really, really beautiful with the parks and water and buildings.

Q: You post lots of great food photos on Instagram. What Illinois restaurants do you crave?

: The food in Chicago is amazing. One of my all-time favorites is Tru. Schwa is another one. It's super tiny, BYOB and they're known for not being

able to get in. I got lucky, and they answered the phone.

Q: What do you do during your time off?

: I like to travel, cook, visit family and work out. I'm kind of arts-and-crafty. If I have time, I like to make something or draw or paint or cut wood. Recently, I made a bunch of dream catchers.

Q: When out-of-state friends visit, where do you go?

: A great day in the city especially because it's not what you think Chicago would be good for—is on a boat. An architectural tour is really good, but you can also rent a boat and drive around on the river and then go out on the lake. It's an amazing view of the city.

Q: What's your best tip for packing?

: I leave my toiletry bag intact because it's hard to remember every last thing.

Q: How did growing up in Illinois influence your perspective on life?

: Midwesterners are friendly people. Any time I meet someone and feel like this person is super nice and easy to talk to, I ask where he or she is from, and it's somewhere in the Midwest. And you learn to embrace the seasons. In the summer, you're outside grilling. When Halloween comes around, you go to the pumpkin patch. Christmas really feels like Christmas.



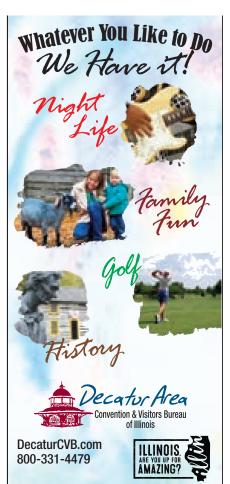


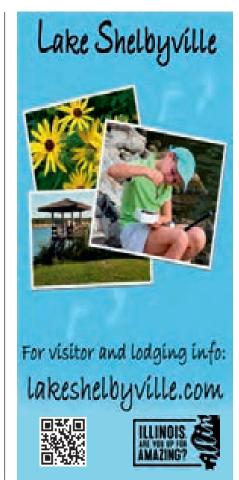


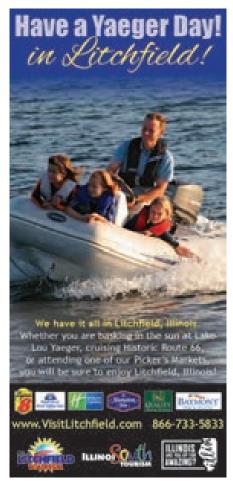














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Insiders' Guide to

Historic Nauvoo

Fleeing persecution in Missouri, Joseph Smith and his followers, known as Latter-day Saints, arrived in southwest Illinois in 1839. Smith named the town Nauvoo, hoping it would live up to its Hebrew meaning of a "beautiful place" to rest. More than 10,000 Mormons called Nauvoo home until 1844, when persecution arose again, spurring their migration to Utah. Today's living-history sites bring the Mormon era to vivid life. -Megy Karydes

Key events in the early days of Mormonism, a religion now counting about 15 million followers worldwide, played out in this frontier village.

The Nauvoo Temple, overlooking the Mississippi River.

NAUVOO TODAY

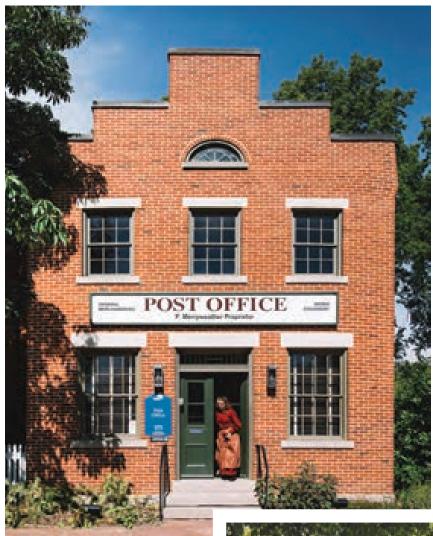
A day in this town of 1,200 people along the Mississippi River provides a glimpse into the roots of a homegrown American belief system. Key events in the early days of Mormonism, a religion now counting about 15 million followers worldwide, played out in this frontier village. At the visitors center, travelers browse through historic artifacts and displays, including a relief map of Nauvoo in 1846. Guides driving horse-drawn wagons take visitors on free 30-minute tours past more than 30 historic sites downtown.

At the Joseph Smith Historic Site, a guided walking tour begins with a short film and continues through the Joseph Smith Homestead and Mansion house. The Red Brick Store, once the epicenter of community life. still operates as a general store selling old-fashioned games and other goods representative of items found on the same shelves in 1842-44. The tour passes the Smith Family Cemetery and Nauvoo House, a boarding house now available as a rental.

Amid downtown's restored shops, homes and public buildings from the 1840s, look for monuments honoring Smith and other figures. At the Webb Brothers' Blacksmith Shop, watch demos and leave with a hand-forged iron ring hammered from a horseshoe nail.

The Nauvoo Family Living Center offers kids hands-on experiences from the 19th century as they learn to make rope and candles, watch tour guides weave rugs from rags, and taste bread from a brick oven.

The luminous Mormon Nauvoo Temple towers on a bluff overlooking a bend in the Mississippi River. Built in 2002 as a replica of the 1840s original destroyed by arson, the temple is open only to Latter-day Saints, but the public can tour the grounds.



LODGINGS AND RESTAURANTS

Aromas from decadent cinnamon rolls waft though the eight upstairs rooms at Hotel Nauvoo, tempting guests from their four-poster beds to join the breakfast buffet.

Across the street, Grandpa John's Nauvoo Cafe and Soda Fountain serves home-style breakfast and lunch.

Enjoy a glass of wine amidst 145-yearold trees and take in the vineyards surrounding the historic Nauvoo Grand Bed and Breakfast, Baxter's Vinevards and Winery, Illinois' oldest winery, offers free tastings and self-guided tours daily.



Free horse-drawn wagon tours take visitors past historic sites, including the Nauvoo Post Office.





STOPS ALONG THE GREAT RIVER ROAD



GALENA More than 130 specialty shops line Main Street of the 1826 town. Be sure to take time to hike, paddle the Galena River and sip local wines.





QUINCY Washington Park-site of a Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858hosts a spring Dogwood Festival and summer Blues in the District.



ELSAH The town of 673 residents feels like a step into the 19th century, with stone cottages and **Greek Revival buildings** housing quaint shops.

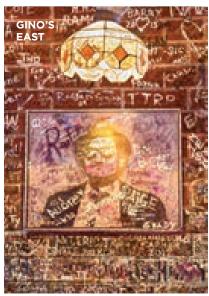


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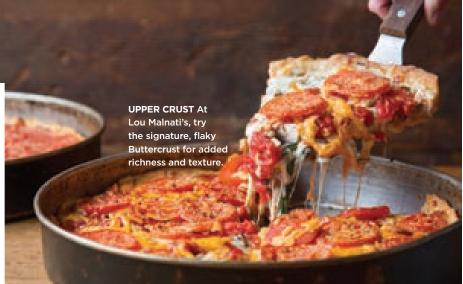






TASTE TOUR

Sample slices at four pizzerias with Chicago Pizza Tours. You'll even score a behind-the-scenes look inside the kitchens to learn a trade secret or two.



PIZZERIA UNO

When Ike Sewell first served his deep dish on the corner of Ohio and Wabash, lines stretched out the door. After merging with nearby Pizzeria Riccardo in 1955, Sewell changed his restaurant name to Pizzeria Uno, and Ric Riccardo's place became Pizzeria Due. Their pies have an ultra thick, crunchy crust and sauce made from plum tomatoes. Uno Pizzeria and Grill now has locations nationwide, but tourists still flock to the original locale for a taste of pie history.

LOU MALNATI'S **PIZZERIA**

Lou Malnati and his father, Rudy, got their starts working at Pizzeria Uno. (There is still a debate about whether Rudy had a hand in inventing the deep-dish dough recipe.) Lou took his expertise to the northern suburb of Lincolnwood in 1971. At more than 46 locations throughout the area, Malnati's serves a flaky, buttery crust covered with toppings, such as its exclusive sausage blend, fresh mozzarella supplied from a small dairy and vine-ripened tomatoes. A gluten-free version uses lean sausage as a crust.

GIORDANO'S

Although brothers Efren and Joseph Boglio opened the first Giordano's on Chicago's South Side in 1974, the family recipe dates back some 200 years, when Mama Giordano baked her beloved Italian Easter Pie. At 59 locations in Chicago and beyond, Giordano's adds an extra layer of goodness by stuffing the toppings and cheese between two layers of crust.

GINO'S EAST

Cab drivers (and entrepreneurs) Sam Levine and Fred Bartoli opened Gino's East in downtown Chicago near Michigan Avenue in 1966. Their golden-crust pizzas are served piping hot in cast-iron pans in more than 20 locations in Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas and Arizona. For a little heat, try the Chicago Fire with extra-spicy Italian sausage, fire-roasted red peppers, red onions and a jalapeño on top.

PEQUOD'S PIZZA

Founded in 1970 in the northwest Chicago suburb of Morton Grove, Pequod's deep dish features a caramelized crust. It's made by spreading a thin layer of cheese along the dough's edge prior to baking, giving it a chewy texture. Patrons enjoy the difference at the original Morton Grove pizzeria or the outpost in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood.

MORE DEEP DISH

BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS

QUATRO'S. CARBONDALE Pizzeria with Chicago roots specializes in its "Famous Deep Pan Pizza."

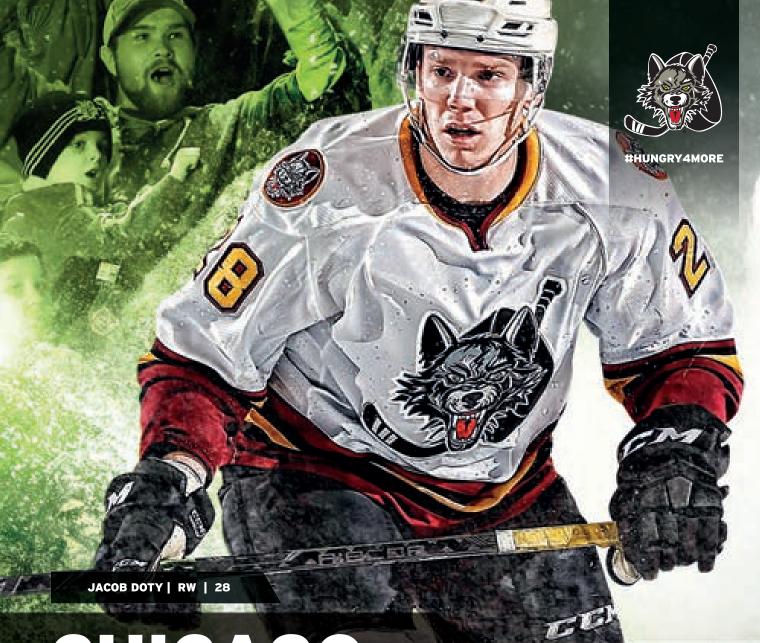
CEMENO'S PIZZA, JOLIET This momand-pop Italian joint serves up four decades of deepdish history.

TOBIN'S PIZZA, **BLOOMINGTON** Whole cooked tomatoes top the thick, cheesecovered crust.

CHICAGO GRILL, PEORIA Grandma's recipe lives on in this deep dish, originally served in Chicago.

GREATHOUSE OF PIZZA, CASEY Crowds gather three nights only-Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays-for Chicago-style pies.

PAPA DEL'S PIZZA, CHAMPAIGN It's so fresh, they make the dough every two hours.



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Drinks with a view

Gather with friends for cocktails with a rooftop view.



CINDY'S AT THE CHICAGO ATHLETIC **ASSOCIATION, CHICAGO The 1893** building underwent major renos last year, and the results are as impressive as the views of Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago.

THE J. PARKER AT HOTEL LINCOLN. **CHICAGO** Signature cocktails taste even

better when accompanied by 360-degree views of Lake Michigan, Lincoln Park and the Chicago skyline from the 13th floor.

ROOF ON THE WIT, CHICAGO

One of the trendiest lounges in town, **ROOF** offers showstopping downtown views from 27 stories up.

FIVE AND DIME. EVANSTON

Just blocks from the Northwestern University campus, this spacious sports bar serves top-notch margaritas and other cocktails.

BARRELHOUSE 34. CHAMPAIGN

This downtown bar has an extensive beer list, creative craft cocktails and a patio to take advantage of summer breezes.

EMBERS TAP HOUSE, LOCKPORT

Beer-lovers choose from 41 craft tap beers and enjoy comfort food such as meatloaf, flatbreads and burgers alfresco.

EMPIRE BURGERS AND BREW,

NAPERVILLE Enjoy views of the downtown Riverwalk while sipping creative cocktails made with fresh ingredients, or one of their 70-plus beers. A retractable roof keeps patrons warm and dry in all seasons.



THE STANDARD, ROCKFORD

The town's first rooftop bar opened last fall, and the glass-enclosed space gives yearround views of the Rock River.

Distinctive creations

Stretch your taste buds with creative twists on beverages.

THE AVIARY, CHICAGO

Cocktails are a work of art at this extravagant West Loop lounge, where a full-time "ice chef" creates more than a dozen shapes for creative craft drinks.

DUSEK'S BOARD AND BEER, CHICAGO

Beermosas have their own section on the brunch menu. Downstairs bar Punch House serves more than 10 types of boozy punch in a speakeasy setting.

THE SIXTH, CHICAGO

This upscale Lincoln Square bar serves playful cocktails, like Silly Rabbit, a gin beverage with oversized ice cubes the colors of Trix cereal.

SOCIAL URBAN BAR AND RESTAURANT, **ROCKFORD**

Bartenders craft drinks tailored to customers' palates, and drinks range from classic to flaming cocktails, along with a selection of absinthe.

-Kate Silver

The Aviary resembles a laboratory as bartenders craft drinks, such as the Cloche Encounter (left) and **Bring Another Smurf** (below).



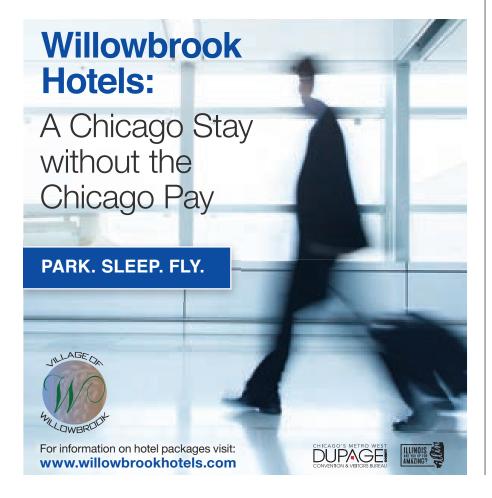
TRY HOUSE-MADE SPIRITS

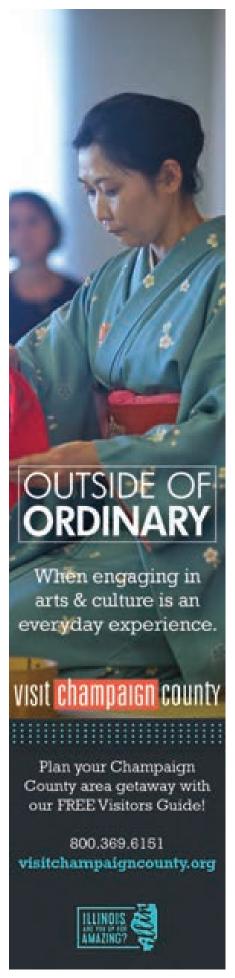
STUMPY'S SPIRITS DISTILLERY, Columbia On an eighth-generation family farm, Stumpy's produces whiskeys from grain to glass, adding creative flavors, such as pecan pie, honey and lemon drop.

QUINCY STREET DISTILLERY. Riverside The Speakeasy Cocktail Bar crafts drinks using spirits-vodka, gin, whiskey and more-made on-site at the distillery.

GRAND RIVER SPIRITS, Carbondale Distiller and owner Karen Binder uses locally grown grains and fruits in handcrafted spirits, such as Red Eye Pie Corn Whiskey and Red Eye Cherry Moonshine.















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Crafted from dreams by dreamers, it's a hand-made haven of amazing things to do, fascinating things to see, incredible things to taste and inspiring things to hear. Here, all these things are woven together to make experiences that make memories that last a lifetime. All people are welcome here. Join us. Be In Good Company, in Rockford, Illinois.

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he aroma of freshly ground coffee drifts across Lakeview's sidewalks as morning customers slip through the door at Heritage Bikes General Store. Baristas serve up the day's first caffeine fixes (preparing an average of 300 drinks each day), while customers gather at communal tables and mechanics get to work on hand-built bicycles in their section of this early-1900s brick storefront in Chicago.

"We're a mash-up of two passionate cultures-coffee and cycling," owner Mike Salvatore says while ringing up sales of coffee and scratch-made treats from nearby Dollop Bake Shop.

At Heritage, everything is customized, including the coffee bar that Mike's crew made of reclaimed wood. That's where the process of ordering a bicycle begins. While sipping lattes, customers discuss their personal style and biking habits before heading out on a test ride through the trendy neighborhood less than two miles from Lake Michigan.

Heritage is the first bicycle manufacturer to set up shop in Chicago since Schwinn shuttered its production plant decades ago. Each of the 500 or so bikes Heritage builds every year takes six weeks to assemble. The line includes five vintage-inspired frames with names such as The Chief, The Jane, The Goblin and Daisy. The bikes are fabricated with American-made steel tubing. Prices start at \$799 and go up as buyers customize. Upgrades such as highperformance brake systems and gears, as well as custom paint jobs, saddles and handlebars, personalize the ride. Stylish accessories include fenders, colored tires and cycling bags. Heritage Bikes General Store also sells bicycle gear crafted by European designers.

For Mike, a fifth-generation Chicagoan, owning a neighborhood store is as natural as, well, riding a bike. He's been peddling goods since he sold balloons tethered to the handlebars of his Knight Rider Big Wheel in his Rogers Park neighborhood (about 6 miles north of Lakeview).





Mike met his photographer wife, Melissa, at the University of Arizona. After graduation, the couple moved to New York, where Mike worked on Wall Street and built bikes at an East Village co-op on weekends. While selling bikes at street markets, Mike noticed vendors luring customers with coffee. That's when his bicycle-coffee concept began percolating.

In 2011, Mike and Melissa moved back to Chicago and opened Heritage Bikes down the block from Melissa's family portrait storefront, A Little Photo Studio. Now, customers also find Heritage Outpost coffee hangouts in the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods. Chicago's Intelligentsia roasts the Heritage brand of globally grown coffees for all of the stores decked out with bicycles.

This year, Mike plans to expand the business with more Heritage Outposts in Chicago (some serving craft cocktails) and increase bike production. He's customizing the Chicago commute, one made-to-order bike and coffee at a time. That's just how Mike rolls.



Check the Illinois Made section of enjoyIllinois.com for tips on where to find handcrafted flavors and wares.



MIKE'S FAVE RIDES



CHICAGO'S LAKEFRONT TRAIL

The 18.5-mile paved route along Lake Michigan's shoreline connects sandy beaches and waterfront parks, perfect for picnics framed by iconic skyline views. The Hotel Lincoln, SoHo House Chicago and Chicago Athletic Association hotels provide guests with Heritage bikes for exploring the city.



LABAGH WOODS

The Chicago River and undulating gravel bike trails run through this forest preserve on the city's northwest side. Nearby, throwback Superdawg dishes classic Chicago-style hot dogs.



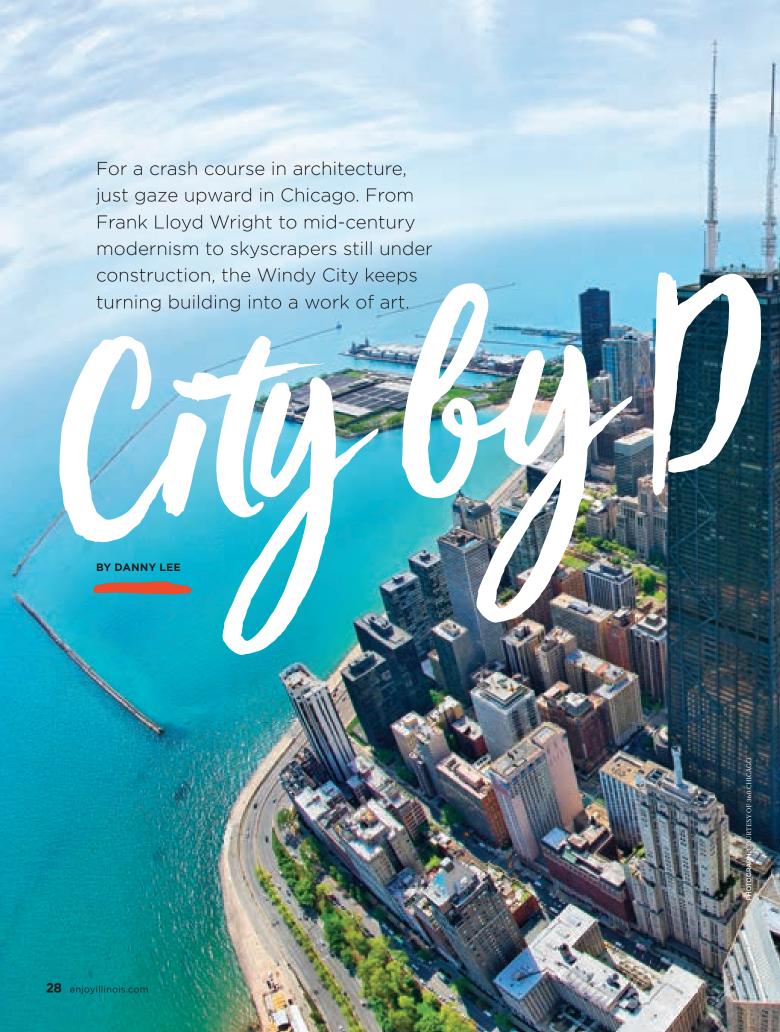
BARRINGTON

The northern suburb's country roads offer leisurely road rides past horse farms. Mike kick-starts his daylong pedals at Cook Street Coffee and ends them at Penny Road Pub.



ILLINOIS CYCLOCROSS EVENTS

Attending these highperformance, crosscountry races as a spectator is a great way to experience Illinois' small towns. In his 1968 motor home, Mike transports Chicago teams sponsored by Heritage.





City by Design





As downtown boomed. architect Frank Lloyd Wright found a way to make the horizontal take wing in his **PRAIRIE** SCHOOL HOMES, all accented by geometric details and custom furniture. Oak Park showcases some of the best examples of this style, including the master's own OAK PARK HOME AND STUDIO starring a twostory children's playroom with vaulted ceilings and a skylight. Take a one-hour guided tour, or if you have a

WRIGHT PLUS HOUSEWALK (May 20 this year) includes rarely offered interior tours of homes and buildings designed by Wright and his contemporaries.

few hours, combine it with

a self-guided audio tour

of the exteriors of seven

Wright-designed homes

in town. The annual

PILSEN

Aside from the downtown area gutted by fire in 1871, perhaps no Chicago neighborhood has changed more than Pilsen on the southwest side. Once the home of Bohemian, Czech and German immigrants, the neighborhood has become a close-knit Mexican-American community. Many Old Europe-style buildings are adorned with modern murals. The 1892 Romanesque Revival THALIA HALL demands a visit, restored to imposing glory with its entryway of carved Bedford limestone beneath a vivid stained-glass window. The **NATIONAL MUSEUM**

OF MEXICAN ART offers a look at boldly colored pieces mirroring the neighborhood's lively character.

features lavish mansions built by wealthy businessmen around the turn of the 20th century. Those men likely gathered at the terra-cotta-fishdecorated **NORTH AVENUE** BATHS, now occupied by Trenchermen, a trendy gastropub. Still following its original role is ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA **CHURCH** in an elaborate Renaissance Revival-style building. Frescoes by Thaddeus Zukotynski cover the dome above the altar. On a lighter note, the **HERMANN WEINHARDT HOUSE** captures passersby with its gingerbread ornamentation and Christmasy color palette of green limestone and red brick.

Oak Park. Wicker Park. The Hull Gate at the University of Chicago. One of many colorful murals in Pilsen.



Gothic architecture finds new and old forms on this wooded south-side Chicago school, with the ivy-covered HULL GATE and JOSEPH BOND **CHAPEL** well-suited for the grounds of European cathedrals. You'll feel as if you've entered the Great Hall of Hogwarts while strolling through the WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, with its soaring arched ceiling and hulking chandelier. The more intimate IDA NOYES **HALL** charms visitors with intricately carved oak wainscoting and wroughtiron railings. Meanwhile, the blocky **HENRY HINDS** LABORATORY FOR **GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCES** takes a modern twist on Gothic with an abundance of right angles.





The CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE **FOUNDATION** helms a variety of tours throughout the city. The popular RIVER CRUISE aboard Chicago's First Lady departs from downtown Chicago's Riverwalk. Guides give insights into more than 50 buildings while sharing fun facts about the city's history on 90-minute boat tours. Dozens of walking tours are themed around niche interests such as Tiffany Treasures and Evolution of the Skyscraper. For an all-encompassing view of the city on a tight timeline, opt for the Must-See Chicago tour, which involves hopping on and off the famous L train to see landmarks, such as the WRIGLEY BUILDING, the ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO and the CHICAGO THEATRE, all within a 90-minute time frame.

Come back in the autumn to experience the Chicago Architecture Foundation's popular **OPEN HOUSE** CHICAGO event (October 14-15 this year), which allows free access to a changing menu of more than 200 architectural gems. Visitors will have exclusive access to skyscrapers, offices, private clubs, historic landmarks and some of Chicago's most fascinating locales.





New Stars OF THE SKYLINE

Chicago is far from done with architectural trendsetting. One example: the sleek, ribbon-like 93story VISTA TOWER, slated to be finished by 2020. Several other new structures have commanded attention over the past few years:

- A mixed-use tower called AQUA has drawn stares and selfies since 2009 for its wavy 82-story configuration.
- The 60-story WALDORF ASTORIA CHICAGO—with a Parisian-style exterior complete with spires and colonnades-opened in 2010.
- ONEELEVEN, a geometrically segmented glass tower housing luxury apartments, opened in 2014.
- The lakefront's Navy Pier got a brand-new **CENTENNIAL** WHEEL in 2016. Around 400 people can ride the 200-foottall wheel at a time. Gondolas feature interactive video screens loaded with Navy Pier information.

Historical Gems AROUND THE STATE

Intriquing architecture fills Illinois, especially in several little towns with big histories.

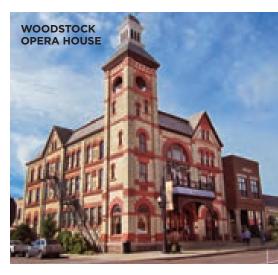
WOODSTOCK

An hour's drive northwest of Chicago, Woodstock's town square is anchored by the ornate Woodstock Opera House, built in 1889 of local materials, including brick, fieldstone, terra-cotta and limestone, artfully combined in a structure showing various styles: Gothic, Victorian and Midwestern. Nineteeth-century storefronts (including the 1857 courthouse and sheriff's residence) surround a downtown park with a gazebo replicating one that originally sheltered a spring thought to have medicinal properties.



With a whopping 3,600 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, this mid-state Mississippi River town stars endless examples of Federal Style and Greek Revival structures dating to the 1800s. Check out the Gothic Revival St. Francis Catholic Church, the Newcomb-Stillwell Mansion (doing duty as the Quincy Museum), Dick Brothers Brewery (now a fine arts gallery) and Villa Kathrine Castle, serving as the Quincy Visitors Center on a bluff above the Mississippi River.





GALENA

Antique homes headline the sights in Galena, tucked into the state's northwest corner.

An impressive 85 percent of the town's buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which includes such highlights as the Ulysses S. Grant and Elihu B. Washburne homes. Roughly following the Galena River, Main Street contains elaborate Victorian structures housing coffee shops, tearooms, boutiques, galleries, bed-and-breakfasts (there are 31 in town) and restaurants. On surrounding river bluffs, broad, shaded lawns surround the mansions built by steamship captains and owners of nearby lead mines, many ornamented with turrets, columns, ornate bay windows and all the other frills and flounces beloved by 19th-century homeowners.

GALENA'S MAIN STREET



you've ever wanted to pet a beluga whale, paint with a rhino or make dinner for a meerkat, check out these Illinois zoos, where caregivers conduct behind-the-scenes animal encounters in protected and controlled settings.

Home to 18 Backstage Adventures enrichment programs, the Brookfield Zoo (14 miles west of Chicago) gives animal-lovers plenty of chances for interaction. At the Flippers and

coral and rays also live. Penguin and Beluga Encounters let guests touch animals and learn training techniques. As Trainer for the Day, visitors assist trainers in their routine, caring for and feeding belugas, dolphins, sea otters, sea lions and penguins. All Shedd programs address global conservation and sustainable seafood initiatives.

More than 300 animals from around the world call Coal Valley's Niabi Zoo home. The 40-acre facility near the

Quad Cities hosts Big Cat and Giraffe Encounters, Trainers show and tell guests how they care for the zoo's endangered leopards and bobcats, prepare their yards, and conduct medical checkups and enrichment playtime sessions. Visitors also stand eye-to-eye with African giraffes and watch them use their long tongues to eat honey from a muffin tin while trainers explain the gentle beasts' behavior.

UNLEASH YOUR WILD SIDE LEARNING ABOUT LAND AND SEA CREATURES (AND EFFORTS TO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL) WITH A VISIT TO ILLINOIS ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS.

Fins experience, participants help keepers do health checkups and training exercises for seals and dolphins. During the Rhino Rembrandt program, guests assist a black rhino with painting a picture (he holds a brush with his lower lip). On the Great Ape Escape tour of Tropic World, visitors talk with trainers, while staff members prepare food for the primates. Children delight in the Fragile Kingdom Desert's Mole Rats, Meerkats and More program, creating meals and serving them to the curious creatures.

At Chicago's lakefront Museum Campus, the Shedd Aquarium's interpretive tours explore habitats, water quality and microbiology labs, kitchens and hospital facilities for 32,000 animals. Extraordinary Experiences programs include the Shark Feeding Tour, led by aquarists in the Wild Reef exhibit, where exotic





SPOTLIGHT ON ...

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Opened in 1868, Chicago's free neighborhood zoo is one of the nation's oldest, but it's always

Endangered African penguins are among the newest residents, thanks to the addition of the Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove. The exhibit, which can house a colony of up to 30 penguins, simulates their natural habitat on South Africa's Cape. Visitors love watching the creatures waddle on the beach and play underwater tag, torpedoing around crustacean-covered rocks.

The new 11,000-square-foot Walter Family Arctic Tundra exhibit is home to a polar bear. The outdoor playground reflects the bear's natural environment with a waterfall, dig pits and pools with underwater viewing areas. Guests get a feel for the bear's



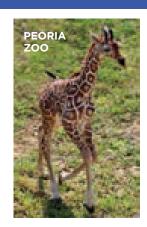
frigid homeland by touching an ice wall and entering a chilly cave.

The recently renovated Kovler Seal Pool—home to a blended family of gray and harbor seals-marks an additional expansion as part of the zoo's \$125 million improvement plan. Future plans include renovating the Kovler Lion House and building a new visitors center.



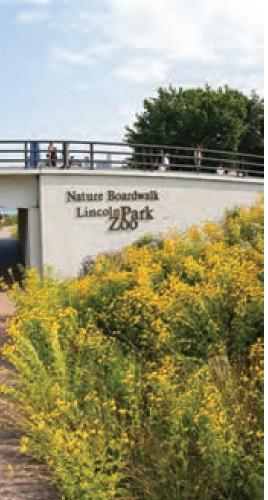
7 MORE SPOTS TO GET WILD

PEORIA ZOO Peoria The new Africa! exhibit nearly doubled the size of this classic zoo. Visitors can stand inches from a lion playfully pawing the glass, and look for rhinos and zebras wandering across the area.



MILLER PARK ZOO Bloomington Trot around the world with themed exhibits, such as Animals of Asia, Tropical America Rainforest and the new flamingo habitat. Kids love the hands-on ZooLab, carousel and the daily seal, leopard, bear and tiger feedings. **HENSON ROBINSON ZOO** Springfield More than 90 species native to the Americas, Asia. Africa and Australia live here, next to Lake Springfield. Docent-led animal encounters teach guests about creatures' behaviors and the zoo's conservation efforts.

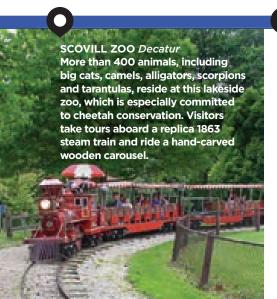
COSLEY ZOO Wheaton This compact zoo houses Illinois wildlife and Midwest farm animals. Red foxes, turkey vultures, raccoons and owls are among those living in 20 natural habitat areas.





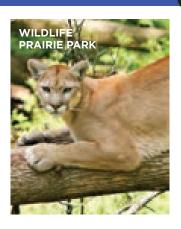


PHOTOGRAPHS: (BIKES) ADAM ALEXANDER/COURTESY OF CHOOSE CHICAGO, (PENGUINS) JULIA FULLER/LINCOLN PARK ZOO, (POLAR BEAR) COURTESY OF LINCOLN PARK ZOO, (GIRAFFE) COURTESY OF PEORIA PARK DISTRICT, (TRAIN) COURTESY OF DECATUR PARK DISTRICT, (CAT) COURTESY OF WILDLIFE PRAIRIE PARK



WILDLIFE **PRAIRIE PARK**

Hanna City/Peoria An easy 1.5-mile hiking trail through woodlands passes enclosures housing rescued wildlife native to the Midwest. Cougars, black bears and bison live in this recreation park, which also offers fishing, wildlife talks, and 20 miles of hiking, mountain biking and running trails.

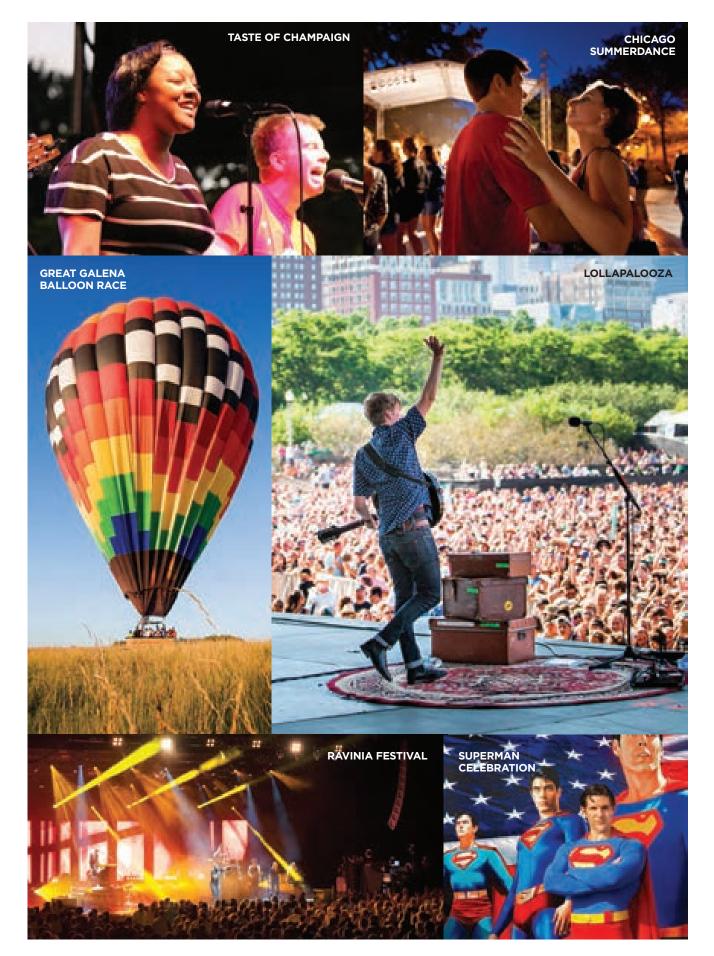


PHILLIPS PARK ZOO

Aurora **North American** birds of prey, reptiles, a cougar and farmyard animals live in this free zoo in a lakeside park. At the Stover Visitors Center, view mastodon bones found on the park's grounds.



CHICAGO BLUES FEST







he granddaddy of America's music festivals, Chicago's Lollapalooza (August 3-6 this year) packs 100,000 fans a day into skyscraper-surrounded Grant Park, where crowds rock out to more than 140 bands over four days, including headliners like Radiohead and Paul McCartney. The festival attracts music fans of all ages, especially younger crowds. If you love music, it's a party you don't want to miss.

The Grant Park crowds are mellower at the Chicago Blues Festival, better known as Blues Fest (June 9-11). As you'd expect in a city famous for its blues, the lineup features some of the genre's best acts. Admission is free, and the pavilion fills with fans who nod their heads to the slow tunes and dance to high-energy blues funk. Don't be surprised if legends such as Buddy Guy (who has a blues bar down the street) make a guest appearance.

Get more thrills dancing in Grant Park during Chicago SummerDance, a free outdoor summer dance party on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (June 23-September 10). Each weekend night features a different dance style, like swing, salsa, waltz or Bollywood. After a group dance lesson, a live band plays as you try out your moves on the basketball-court-sized dance floor.

For live music in a low-key setting, pack your finest picnic gear and head to tree-covered Ravinia Festival on the North Shore in Highland Park. Set up lawn chairs and uncork wine while listening to classical music or popular acts like James Taylor. Fireworks cap off musical performances during the free Rockin' in the Park concert series in Rosemont (Thursdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day). Local food tents dot the open green in MB Financial Park, so be sure to come hungry (and don't forget lawn chairs).



#BRINGTHEFAM **CHICAGO AIR** AND WATER SHOW



close to the action.

INSIDER TIPS

LOLLAPALOOZA

• Tickets sell out quickly, so be ready to make your purchase the

through a ticket broker. · Don't miss Chow Town, a food festival within the festival, where some of the city's best restaurants serve fest-friendly food like gourmet lobster corn dogs.

CHICAGO BLUES FESTIVAL

•During the day, tour Blues Heaven Foundation, a small blues museum on Michigan Avenue at the site of the old Chess Studios, where legends such as Muddy Waters and Bo Diddley recorded songs. · Getting in and out of Grant Park can take forever on crowded nights. Book a downtown hotel room in advance so that you're

exact minute they go on sale in the spring, or you'll have to pay more

• Check the schedule in advance to see what type of dance is being taught on which night. That way

you don't show up to learn Bollywood dancing on a night they're featuring salsa.

· Bring the kids! SummerDance is a familyfriendly event.

RAVINIA FESTIVAL

 Don't want to drag lawn chairs and coolers? Preorder a picnic box dinner and rent chairs there. Or, park in the Highland Park Metra lot, eat dinner in downtown Highland Park, and take a free shuttle bus to Ravinia. • It's hard see the stage from the lawn seats, so get there early to grab a spot with a clear view of the video screens showing the stage. It's the next best thing.



Dozens of hot-air balloons fill the skies during the Great Galena Balloon Race (June 16-18) before they land at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa. You won't reach the sky, but you'll get up to 100 feet in the air during a tethered balloon ride at Eyes to the Skies in the western suburb of Lisle (June 30-July 2). This fund-raiser for local charities also features nightly balloon glows and fireworks, carnival rides and live music.

INSIDER TIPS

CHICAGO AIR AND WATER SHOW

- · Go to the lakefront (ideally, Oak Street Beach) on Friday afternoon when pilots practice. The show is just as impressive, and the crowds are a fraction of the size.
- For a really closeup view, buy a ticket to 360 Chicago on the 94th floor of the John Hancock Center. The planes will whiz by at eye level.

SUPERMAN CELEBRATION

- Take a selfie with Superman! Check the festival website (supermancelebration.net) for meet times.
- There are more than 30 activities per day during this festival, so look at the schedule and do a little pre-fest planning.



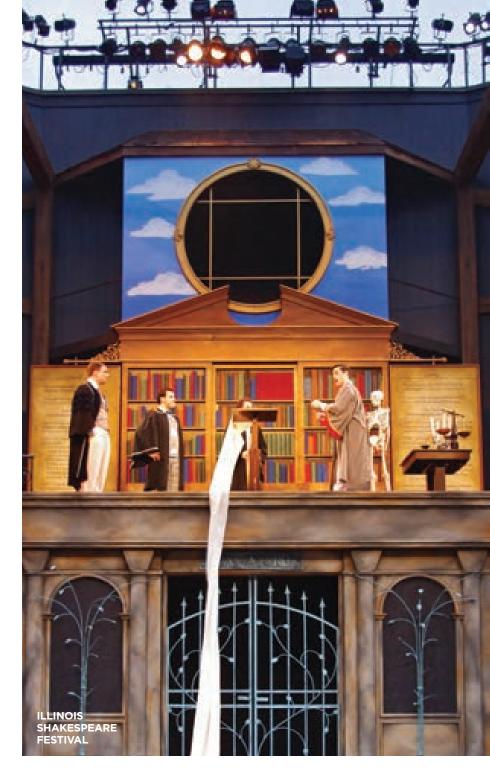
FUN FESTS



GET #ORIGINAL

hicago's Printers Row Lit Fest (June 10-11) stacks five city blocks with book-filled booths from publishers big and small. Peruse their displays for new, used, antique and kids' books. Discover a breakout writer, or check out a celebrity author. Honor the world's most famous playwright during Bloomington's Illinois Shakespeare Festival (June 30-August 12). Picnic on the grounds of the **Ewing Cultural Center before watching** traditional and creative stage versions of the Bard's works, such as Cymbeline or A Midsummer Night's Dream. Tickets to these high-quality shows start at just \$12.

A more tangible art form makes the Geneva Arts Fair (July 22-23) a nationally renowned festival (40 miles west of Chicago), More than 150 juried artists exhibit and sell their work in this town along the Fox River. You'll be tempted to take home your own painting, sculpture or piece of handmade jewelry from the lineup of high-quality, can't-find-it-in-astore work. That's also the case at the Midsummer Arts Faire in Quincy (June 3-4), the Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair (May 19-21) and the Art on the Square in Belleville (May 19-21).



INSIDER TIPS

PRINTERS ROW LIT FEST

- Buy a weekend-long Fest Pass for access to express booksigning lines and freebies like an e-book, poster and tote bag.
- · Download the Lit Fest app, which allows you to build your schedule, get discounted e-books, see up-to-date schedules and more.

ILLINOIS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

- · Going with kids? Check out their 45-minute family shows.
- For \$10 per person, one of the actors will take you on a preshow backstage tour.

GENEVA ARTS FAIR

· Although Geneva is famous for this arts fair, it's also known for its chocolate. Grab a few pieces at any of the dozen specialty chocolate shops in town.

MIDSUMMER ARTS FAIRE

- If the kids are bored, get a day pass to The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc facility, an impressive community center, one block north of the festival
- The nearby Park Bench restaurant is a comfy place to go for coffee, a light breakfast, or soup, salad and a sandwich for lunch.

INSIDER TIPS

RIBFEST

- From noon to 3 p.m., you can score a \$10 wristband to enjoy unlimited carnival rides.
- · Let the kids vote for their fave ribs and help decide who wins the Kids' Choice Award.
- · During the fireworks show, tune in to 104.3 FM, which simulcasts music to accompany the spectacle.

TASTE OF CHICAGO

- Order the smaller and less expensive "taste" menu items, so that you'll have room in your stomach and budget to sample more foods.
- · The best time to visit is during the weekday lunch hour, when the crowds are significantly smaller.

INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL

- Take home a jar of freshly grated Illinois-grown horseradish, said to be tastier than anything you can buy in a grocery store.
- · See if you can win Root Toss, Root Golf or any of the other quirky games featuring horseradish roots.

TASTE OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

- · Burn off some calories with the Pie Run, a 3.14-mile dinnertime run with homemade pie samples (and water) along the route. If you choose, you can have a "flying pie" thrown at your face for a photo op when you cross the finish line!
- · Park for free in the area on Saturdays—the parking meters will not be enforced.

COBDEN PEACH FESTIVAL

- Watch to see which lucky winner will take home the Peach Queen crown.
- For a taste of small-town Americana, go to the Saturday night Peach Festival parade—the highlight of the weekend.

FOODIE SAMPLER

#NOMNOMNOM



the Windy City Smokeout (July 14-16).

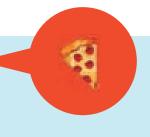
Menus get more diverse at Taste of Chicago (July 5-9), with more than 60 restaurants and food trucks along downtown's lakefront. While you can try Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza, save room for unique ethnic dishes, like African sautéed goat, a Puerto Rican jibarito sandwich or Polish pierogies. Taste buds get a kick at the International Horseradish Festival in Collinsville (June 3-4). Try horseradish pot roast, spiral potatoes with horseradish seasoning and a horseradish-infused bloody mary before shopping for homemade crafts and then watching-or competing inthe annual Root Games.

Taste of Champaign-Urbana (August 18-19) doubles as a fundraiser for local youth programs in Champaign's park district. During the day, it's a family-friendly fest with inflatables, artist demonstrations and games. After the sun goes down, it transforms into more of an adult party, with a hopping beer tent and headlining music acts.

Follow the scent of homemade peach cobbler to southern Illinois' Cobden Peach

Festival, which has lured visitors to this town of 1.100 since 1938. Besides the out-ofthis-world

> **COBDEN PEACH FESTIVAL**



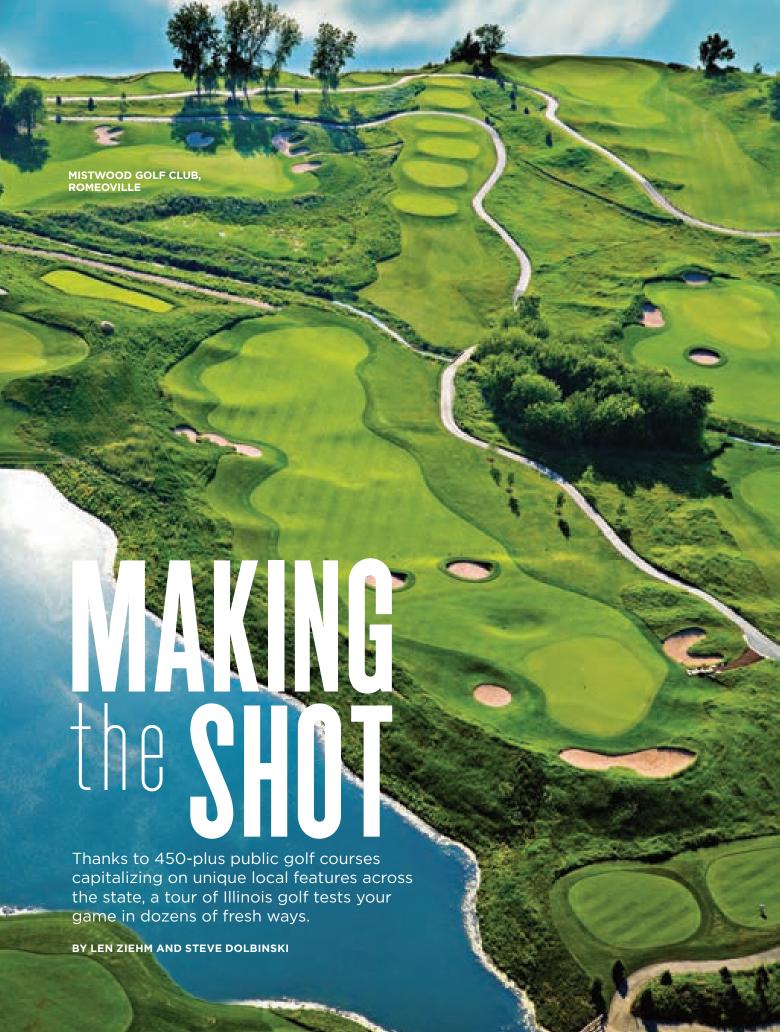


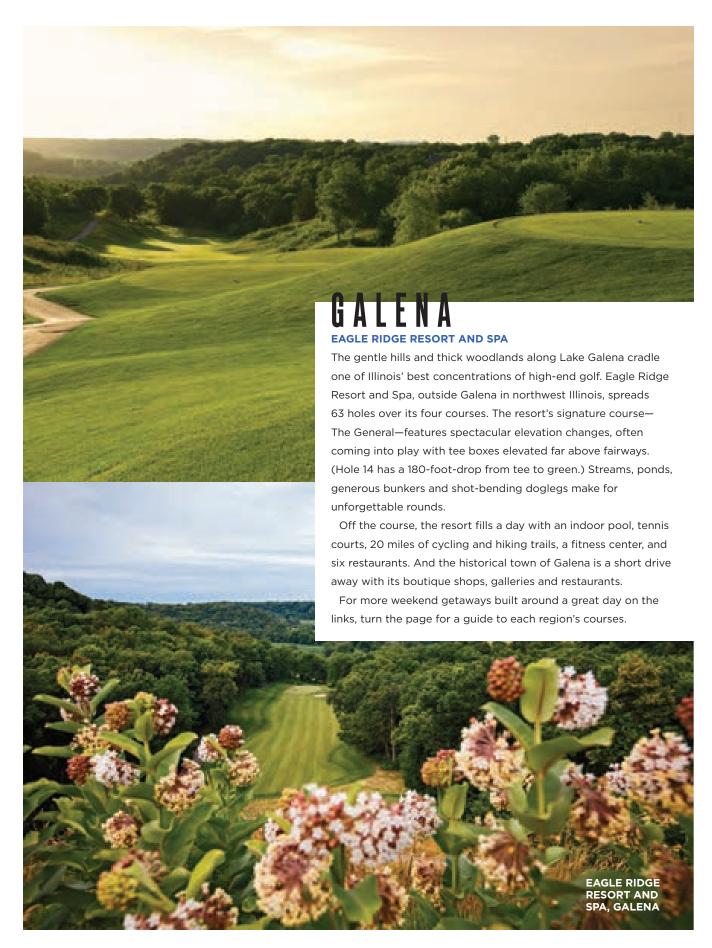
cobbler, fest-goers snack on freshly sliced peaches from local farmers while taking in the family-friendly parade, carnival rides and games.

You'll find plenty of good local eats along a 90-mile stretch of the former Mother Road during the Illinois **Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival** (May 6-7), when twelve communities celebrate the community spirit of the road with special events. Get your comfort-food fix at stops such as the

> Old Log Cabin, serving hearty breakfasts and meaty burgers and melts in Pontiac.







CHICAGO & BEYOND

HARBORSIDE INTERNATIONAL GOLF **CENTER, CHICAGO**

Two courses feature linksstyle golf with the Chicago skyline as a close backdrop. In 2014, Golfweek awarded the Starboard Course the 13th spot in its Best Municipal Courses in the nation. Port's signature 15th hole features an anchorshaped sand trap.

ALDEEN GOLF CLUB, **ROCKFORD**

Golf magazine named Aldeen one of its Thrifty Fifty courses to play (top 50 courses for under \$50). Golfers navigate Dick Nugent-designed beach bunkers and an island green with a replica of the Swilcan Bridge at St. Andrews.

CANTIGNY GOLF, WHEATON

Three courses add up to a day of golf. Golfers who play all 27 holes take shots through dense woods and greens surrounded by water. The two-tiered seventh green on the Hillside course demands a sharp shot and a smart club choice.

COG HILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, LEMONT

Duffers beware: Accuracy renovated the Dubshead, rebuilding its greens with tight

MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB, **ROMEOVILLE**

Find a bit of Scotland in Chicagoland, with 20 St. Andrews-style sod-wall bunkers at Mistwood. A twoyear renovation earned the course a spot on Golf Digest's Best New Courses of 2013. The new Performance Center offers custom club fitting, equipment



is key at Course No. 4 (Dubshead), the most challenging of Cog Hill's four courses. Rees Jones recently landings and repositioned hazards and bunkers.

repairs and lessons.

LAND of LINCOLN

THE DEN AT FOX **CREEK. BLOOMINGTON**

WHEATON

This Arnold Palmer-designed 18-hole course offers wide, bent grass fairways with wild prairie grasses that flourish in the rough. A ball-gobbling 131 bunkers flank this postcard-perfect Scottish links-style course, with water hazards in play on half the holes.

THE RAIL GOLF **COURSE. SPRINGFIELD**

Eighty-two sand bunkers plus five lakes at this dairy farm-turned-golf course make The Rail a challenging and beautiful play. Golf Digest gives the course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. a 4-star rating.



FLY IN

LAND ON

THE GREEN

It costs some green (\$1,200-

\$3,000), but it's

worth it to arrive

in style. Chicago

Helicopter

Experience

delivers golfers to more than

50 Midwest

courses.

including

Cog Hill.

TRAILS OF ADVENTURE THE LINKS AT KOKOPELLI, MARION



PHOTOGRAPHS: (HARBORSIDE) NICK ULIVIERI, COURTESY OF CANTIGNY, KOKOPELLI AND THE RAIL

GOVERNORS RUN, CARLYLE

Located near Lake Carlyle, the course's front nine holes have an open style of play, with prairie textures and lakes. The back nine holes take golfers through woodlands and over creeks, and require shot-making accuracy. Golfers enjoy postgame food and bragging rights at Governors Run Bar and Grill.

HICKORY RIDGE GOLF COURSE, CARBONDALE

Gently rolling fairways of zoysia grass are framed by a forest of hickory trees, challenging bunkers with pampas grass and water hazards. Several doglegs off the tee (starting with the first hole) make the course a fair test for skilled golfers.

THE LINKS AT KOKOPELLI, **MARION**

The Links set the standard in Southern Illinois for a great golf experience with family-friendly green fees. Kokopelli is the perfect walking course-just make sure you don't have to stroll through too many of the bunkers that guard the fairways and greens.

REND LAKE GOLF COURSE, WHITTINGTON

Overlooking 18,000-acre Rend Lake, this 27-hole course is part of a recreation complex that includes dining and lodging options. Five sets of tees make this course extremely playable for all levels.



RED TAIL RUN GOLF CLUB. DECATUR

PGA Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd made his mark on the PGA tour and this signature 18-hole course. The generous fairways gently undulate throughout the course among native prairie grasses. Plenty of tee options mean golfers of all skill levels can have an enjoyable round.

STONE CREEK GOLF **CLUB, URBANA**

Tim and Dick Nugent designed Stone Creek with pampered bent grass fairways molded into subtle, smooth hills that frame the true-rolling greens. This 18-hole course has hosted the Big 10 Golf Championships for both men and women, and is home to the Fighting Illini golf teams.

WEIBRING GOLF CLUB. ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY, NORMAL

PGA Champions Tour player and Illinois State alum D.A. Weibring supervised extensive improvements to fairways, greens and hazards at this course, which opened in 1962. Home to the Illinois State Redbirds, this par-71 course hosts numerous high school and college competitions.

ANNBRIAR GOLF COURSE, WATERLOO This family-friendly, farm-turned-golf course welcomes players of every handicap. The 18 scenic holes were carved through mature forests. Guests top off their experience by relaxing at Annbriar's Smokehouse Restaurant.

ARSENAL ISLAND GOLF **COURSE, ROCK ISLAND** Enjoy 120 years of history and 18 holes of golf on the

Mississippi River. The golf club got its start in 1897, and its classically designed course offers great views of the Mississippi and some of the truest greens you'll play.

HARRY MUSSATTO GOLF COURSE, MACOMB

The Lamoine River Valley near the Western Illinois University campus provides elevation changes and scenery for two nine-hole courses. Water hazards and bunkers mix with tree-lined fairways at this course named after a beloved WILL alum and coach.

SPENCER T. OLIN GOLF COURSE, ALTON

Its wide fairways tempt, and the many doglegs taunt. Play safe or cut a corner to the green? These decisions make for an entertaining day of golf. Four sets of tees on each hole make a fair contest for every member of the foursome.

TPC DEERE RUN, SILVIS

The Rock River anchors this course, which meanders past oak trees, deep ravines and ponds. Part of the TPC network and licensed by the PGA Tour, Deere Run is a risk-reward layout that includes five sets of tees that cater to all skill levels.



SEEING GREEN

Even if you don't feel all that lucky on the golf course, you still might cash in at these eight casinos.

ARGOSY CASINO, ALTON

The state's first riverboat casino features more than 1.000 slots. Dine at Journey restaurant while savoring views of the Clark Bridge.

CASINO QUEEN, **EAST ST. LOUIS**

Claiming to have the loosest slots around, this casino also features the Market Street Buffet with international cuisine.

GRAND VICTORIA CASINO, ELGIN

Play baccarat or craps before rocking to live music at the GVC Show Bar aboard this riverboat.

HARRAH'S, JOLIET AND **METROPOLIS**

Take advantage of discounted digs with stay-and-play packages. Joliet's premium double-queen rooms contain chocolates and bathrobes, while Metropolis offers pet-friendly amenities.

HOLLYWOOD CASINO, **AURORA AND JOLIET**

Multicolor marquees greet visitors, who try their luck at slots, poker, roulette and more.

JUMER'S CASINO AND HOTEL, ROCK ISLAND

Don't be fooled by the retro Art Deco decor. Jumer's features the latest slot innovations and a hotel with a luxurious day spa.

PAR-A-DICE HOTEL AND CASINO, EAST PEORIA

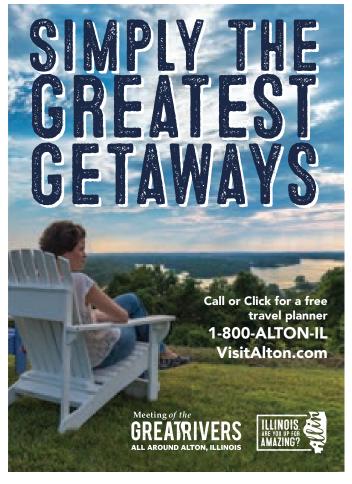
Unwind in suites with whirlpool tubs after hitting the 1,000-plus slots and two dozen table games.

RIVERS CASINO, **DES PLAINES**

Beyond the vast gaming floor, choose from seven bars and restaurants, including upscale Hugo's Frog Bar and Chop House.











EVERY ADVENTURE — should feel — THIS HANDCRAFTED

Add an Illinois Made attraction to your next getaway. Taste beer that is foraged from a nearby forest.

Savor dishes harvested from a farm down the road. And meet artisans who make everything from exquisite pottery and furniture to handcrafted bourbon and wine. Watch the films and see their stories at enjoyillinois.com/illinoismade



of CHICAGO

Home to the first officially recognized gay village in the United States and one of the world's most celebrated pride festivals, the Windy City embraces its LGBT community.





HOT HANGOUTS

BOYSTOWN

A Legacy Walk of rainbow-color totems with plagues honoring LGBT rights advocates lines the main thoroughfare of this anchor to Chicago's gay scene. It's also known for drawing foodies with unique establishments, such as the Chicago Diner, which has been serving vegetarian comfort food since 1983 (the Cajun black bean burger is a perennial favorite). Indulge in a raspberry truffle shake from Bobtail Ice Cream before exploring funky shops, such as Hollywood Mirror, selling off-the-wall gifts like cupcake pillows. Belt out show tunes on Mondays, Fridays and Sundays at Sidetrack bar or dance to pop music and catch a drag show at Roscoe's.

ANDERSONVILLE

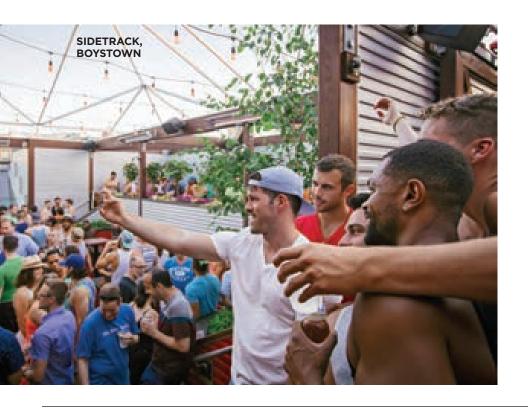
In 1900, one in every 10 Swedish-Americans lived in Andersonville. The community (three miles north of Boystown) retains Swedish character while being the second-largest LGBT-populated neighborhood in the city. The Swedish American Museum tells the story of the community's move to the city's north side after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Svea Restaurant dishes up saucy Swedish meatballs and crepelike Swedish pancakes. Whether you're staying for one night or a week, the 25-suite Guesthouse Hotel feels like home with full kitchens and a grocery, but it also includes vacation-worthy amenities such as a spa and locally made meals delivered to your suite.

AROUND TOWN

LGBT-friendly establishments abound throughout the city. For cheese-and winelovers, Pastoral carefully curates its artisan cheese plates, wine lists and gift sets at six Chicagoland locations, including in the Loop near the shops at Block 37. At P.O.S.H., discover rare flea market finds from France and England-plus trendy dinnerware sets and vintage jewelry-in a beautifully preserved Queen Anne-style building in River North. While hidden to passersby, downtown's Second Story Bar (above Sayat Nova restaurant off North Michigan Avenue) is worth seeking out for its delightfully divey feel (complete with a worn red carpet) and diverse clientele.

-Jess Hoffert

NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS Unique arts and crafts, along with State Fair-esque foods such as deep-fried Twinkies and Champagne-lemonade slushes, fill Boystown during the largest outdoor street festival in the Midwest (August 12-13 this year). More than 180,000 visitors come to check out music on five stages (past headliners included Salt-N-Pepa and Olivia Newton-John) and more than 400 vendors that line North Halsted Street.



ONE COLORFUL PARTY

Honoring freedom of expression since the aftermath of the police raid on New York City's Stonewall Inn gay club in 1969, Chicago Pride draws nearly a million revelers over its two-weekend span. The first weekend (June 17-18 in 2017) features pulsing music on outdoor stages and inside hopping bars along the North Halsted strip in Boystown (part of the East Lakeview neighborhood). The following weekend, crowds pack the same area, waving rainbow flags as creatively costumed revelers and more than 250 floats take part in the Pride Parade.



Chicagoland's Fox River Valley is looking for cyclists of all ages.









To qualify, you must enjoy captivating and picturesque views through historical towns, beautiful forest preserves and prairielands.

Contact us for details, and to plan your trip!















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PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF IOT

REGIONS



CHICAGO & BEYOND GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY LAND OF LINCOLN TRAILS TO ADVENTURE



SEE

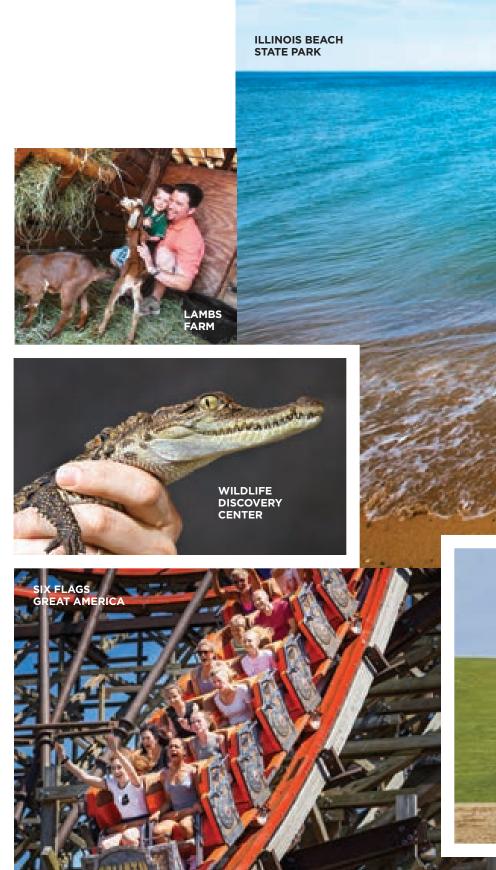
- · A troupe of elegant white stallions shows off its ballet-like dressage moves at TEMPEL FARMS in Old Mill Creek. To learn more about the daily care and training of the Lipizzans, go behind the scenes on a one-hour tour.
- · Animal keepers answer questions and share interesting tidbits about some of the facility's 85 reptiles and native animals at the WILDLIFE DISCOVERY **CENTER** in Lake Forest.
- · At LAMBS FARM in Libertyville, people with developmental disabilities maintain a petting zoo with farm animals, plus an on-site cafe. End the visit with a spin on the carousel.
- · It's retail therapy and more at **GURNEE MILLS**, boasting more than 200 outlet stores and restaurants. At Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, native species-including some trophy fish from local anglers—attract mall shoppers at the giant aquarium inside. Kids play laser tag in the middle of the mall at Tilt Studio.
- Yesteryear comes alive in HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LONG GROVE, where old-fashioned shops line cobblestone walkways. The village hosts popular family events that include the May Chocolate Fest and June Strawberry Fest.

SAVOR

- Locally raised ingredients—straight from the family farm-are on the menu at BEELOW'S STEAKHOUSE in Lake Zurich and Highland Park. In nearby Libertyville, MICKEY FINN'S BREWERY serves pub food with craft ales and lagers while diners enjoy live music.
- Head north to Gurnee's THE **CHOCOLATE SANCTUARY** for all things chocolate, including ribs covered in cocoa-infused barbecue sauce and cocoa-candied bacon. Lindenhurst's AD-LIB GEOCAFE uses locally sourced food for its menu, which changes seasonally.

STAY

- ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK, with more than 6 miles of sparkling Lake Michigan shoreline for swimming, sunning and hiking, encompasses the breezy Illinois Beach Resort in Zion.
- LINCOLNSHIRE MARRIOTT RESORT includes a PGA golf course, tennis courts, two pools and the acclaimed Marriott Theatre.
- KEYLIME COVE in Gurnee offers an indoor water park, arcade, spa and six restaurants to keep the family happy.

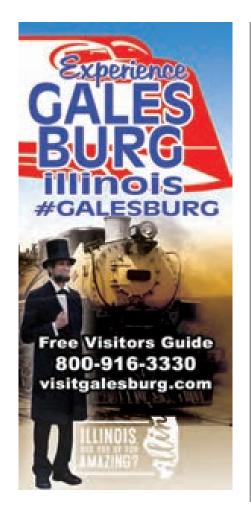


A trip to the sunny, sandy Lake Michigan shoreline reveals beaches perfect for swimming and strolling.



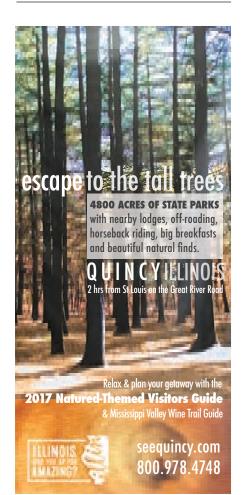
TEMPEL FARMS

Elegant stallions display majestic athleticism in Old Mill Creek.













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REGIONS

Alton & Grafton

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

Quaint shops hold treasures waiting to be discovered in the historic river town of Alton. Pair the trip with neighboring Grafton for a weekend of shopping and sipping. Alton's Antique District includes working studios such as ALTON STAINED GLASS WORKS and MISSISSIPPI MUD POTTERY, where visitors watch artisans create one-of-a-kind pieces. The relatively new (open in 2015) OLD BAKERY BEER COMPANY occupies a downtown 1800s building. The seasonal menu complements the organic beers, such as The Observer, which is also brewed for nearby ELIJAH P'S. Named for local abolitionist Elijah P. Lovejoy, the brewpub serves burgers on house-made sesame buns. Get ready for a ride to Grafton via the MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY, sandwiched between towering limestone cliffs and the meandering Mississippi River. Shopping treasures in Grafton's Main Street stores include authentic Native American crafts at PAJARITO and works by area artists at THE WHITE PELICAN ART GALLERY. The decks of GRAFTON WINERY AND BREWHAUS and TARA POINT INN AND COTTAGES boast river views that are especially spectacular at sunset.



GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

SEE

- · Lewis and Clark history fills the Alton/Grafton area. THE LEWIS AND **CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE tells** the explorers' story and features their life-size keelboat and soldier stories shared by interpreters at Camp River Dubois.
- The nearby 180-foot-tall **CONFLUENCE TOWER affords** amazing views of the swirling Missouri and Mississippi rivers.
- For a birds-eye view of 200-foot barges navigating the lock-anddam system, head to the top of the NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM.
- · Cyclists pedal the 20-plus-mile SAM VADALABENE BIKE TRAIL, which begins in Alton's Piasa Park (near the cliffside Piasa Bird mural) and skirts the Mississippi River before ending in scenic Pere Marquette State Park.
- · Thrill-seekers whiz through the woods on the GRAFTON ZIPLINE, while bird watchers spy more than 300 species at the AUDUBON **CENTER** at Riverlands.

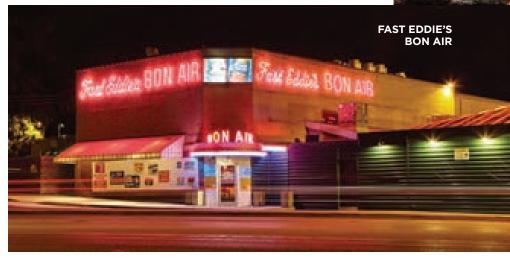
SAVOR

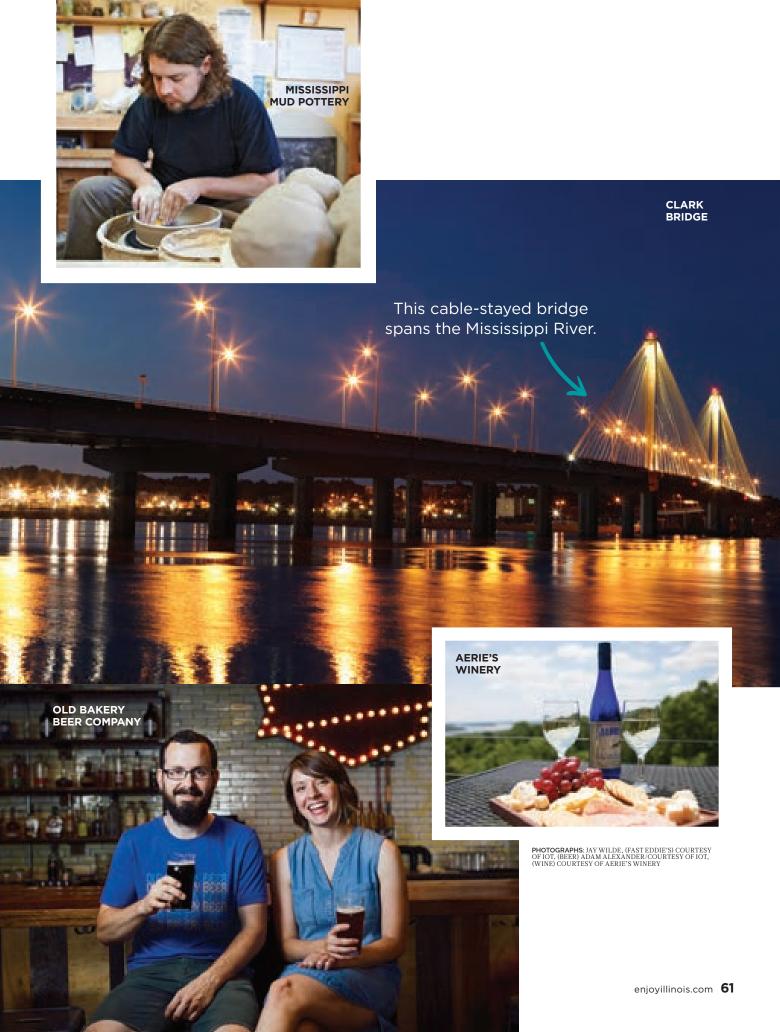
- GENTELIN'S ON BROADWAY serves creative meals in a contemporary setting with incredible views of Alton's CLARK BRIDGE.
- · Lentil tacos top the list of likes in the sunny courtyard at Alton's STATE STREET MARKET.
- · Close by, FAST EDDIE'S BON AIR is a legendary roadhouse with bands, beer and cheap eats.
- · In Grafton, it's all about views of the river during dinner. Share catfish fritters on the deck of THE LOADING **DOCK** overlooking the Mississippi. An array of oysters (such as gulf and bluepoint) is expected at GRAFTON OYSTER BAR, but don't overlook the Cajun and Creole dishes.

STAY

- Overlooking the panoramic confluence of the rivers sits Grafton's scenic AERIE'S RESORT, which offers cozy lodging as well as award-winning sips at on-site AERIE'S WINERY.
- Alton's BEALL MANSION is an opulent bed-and-breakfast offering in-room massages and a 24-hour chocolate buffet to spoil guests.









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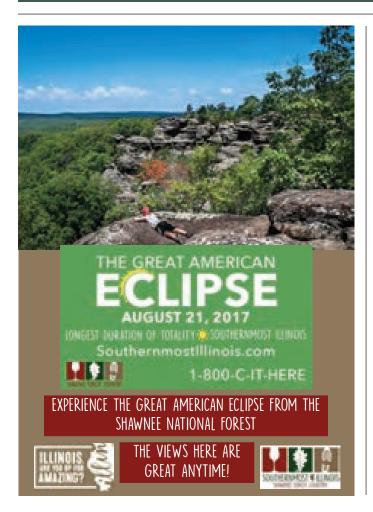
Like no other destination. Springfield offers the best of Lincoln, the nostalgia of Route 66 and fun, family attractions for everyone to enjoy. Exciting memories are waiting for you, right hear in the heart of America. Plan on Springfield for a legendary experience.

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SEE

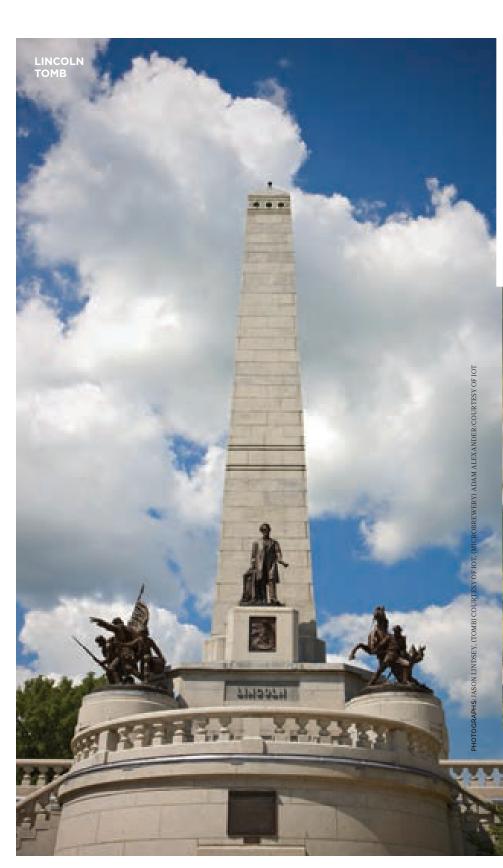
- Find visitor info in the refurbished historic UNION STATION. Then pose for a selfie with Abe, whose statue sits on a bench outside this downtown building.
- A costumed guide tells spooky tales and points out Lincoln sites in downtown Springfield during the nighttime LINCOLN'S GHOST WALK.
- · The natural history of Illinois, from the dinosaur era to frontier times and up to present day, is wonderfully illustrated at the ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM. The downstairs Play Museum features a dino dig and fun games.
- Just blocks away sits the beautifully preserved DANA-THOMAS HOUSE, built by esteemed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The mansion has retained its gorgeous Wright-designed art glass and furniture.
- In Washington Park, listen to summer concerts at the THOMAS REES MEMORIAL CARILLON, one of the world's largest carillons.

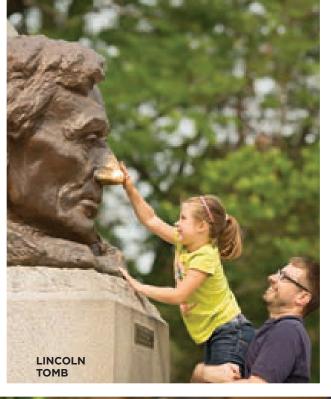
SAVOR

- Drivers on ROUTE 66 stop at the COZY DOG DRIVE IN for a taste of the self-proclaimed original dog on a stick. An upscale version of Springfield's own horseshoe sandwich (an openface hamburger served on thick bread, smothered with French fries drenched in cheese sauce) is on the lunch menu at MALDANER'S.
- Located close to the Lincoln Home. **OBED AND ISAAC'S MICROBREWERY** AND EATERY makes the popular Mother Road pale ale.
- Traditional southern Italian dishes are the specialty at SAPUTO'S, a retro downtown supper club.
- AMERICAN HARVEST EATERY encourages sustainability and uses fresh ingredients such as butternut squash from local farms.
- New Berlin's DANENBERGER FAMILY VINEYARDS has a cozy four-season tasting room for sampling its wines.

STAY

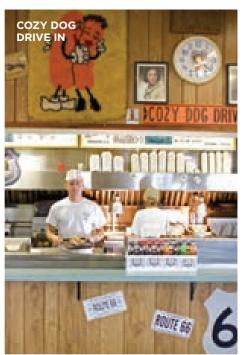
- The PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD, A DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL, puts guests in the heart of downtown historic sites.
- The contemporary boutique STATE HOUSE INN is near the Old State Capitol.
- · The INN AT 835 offers vintage charm, with rooms named for flowers favored by the high-society florist who founded the inn in the early 1900s.











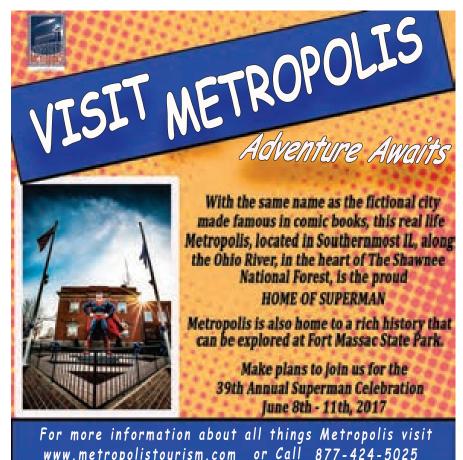


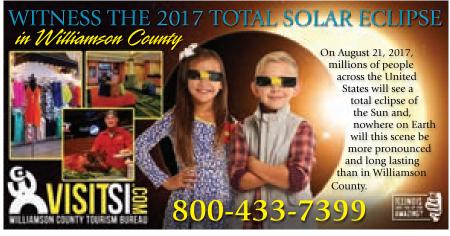
Costumed interpreters interact with visitors while sharing tales at Springfield's landmark sites during the summer program History Comes Alive.













REGIONS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Watch as the moon passes between the sun and Earth on August 21. The best viewing in Illinois happens in the Makanda area. Visit southernillinoiseclipse.com for more about the phenomenon, activities and places to stay.

Makanda

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

The scenic southern Illinois burg of Makanda nestles in the lush SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST. Outdoor enthusiasts make tracks to GIANT CITY STATE PARK. which gets its name from the steep, carved sandstone cliffs that resemble city streets fit for a giant. Hikers explore miles of trails or gather their gear and tackle rock-climbing and rappelling on the massive bluffs. GIANT CITY STABLES leads guided horseback tours along wooded paths. The outdoor excitement continues with thrilling ziplines through dense forest trees on the SHAWNEE BLUFFS CANOPY TOUR. The clear and calm waters of Little Grassy Lake, part of the CRAB ORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, are ideal for a day of fishing and boating. For a calmer detour, the quirky MAKANDA BOARDWALK showcases the works of local artisans, including metalwork and gemstone jewelry.

GARDEN OF THE GODS, SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF IOT



Within Giant City State Park, explore eight hiking trails, rock climb and rappel, and spend the night in the Giant City Lodge.

SEE

- · Sample the flavors of southern Illinois grapes at 12 vineyards and wineries on the SHAWNEE HILLS WINE TRAIL. BLUE SKY VINEYARD, inspired by a Tuscan villa, is known for its picturesque grounds with outdoor terraces overlooking a lake. At Cobden's OWL CREEK VINEYARD, the hard ciders are nearly as popular as the wines and are best enjoyed on the shady upstairs deck.
- WHITE CRANE CANOE RENTALS in Ullin gives two-hour guided tours, by canoe or kayak, of the Cache River. Illinois' hidden bayou. Spot little blue herons, black vultures and other wildlife in the wetlands and forests of the CYPRESS CREEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

SAVOR

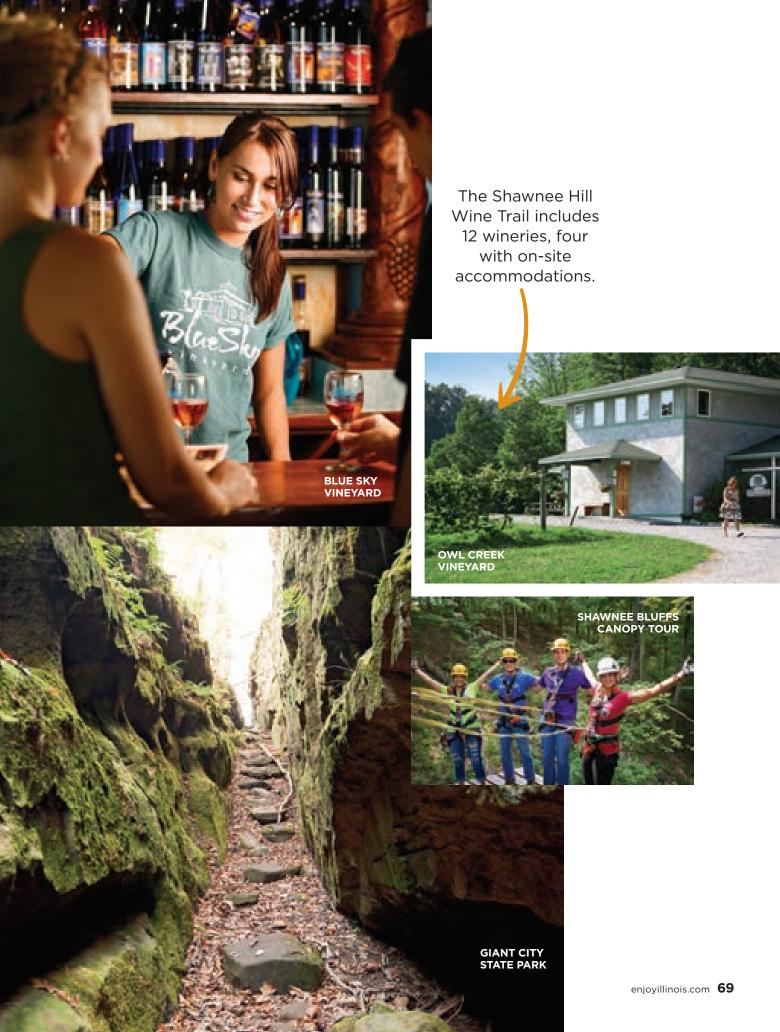
- For a fine dining experience, TOM'S PLACE in DeSoto offers a six-course menu of seasonal items chosen by proprietor and chef Lasse Sorensen.
- YELLOW MOON CAFE in charming Cobden is another local favorite. Ingredients are sourced from area farmers, so the menu changes weekly, with favorite items like baked peach salad and Asian sea bass. Bands play in Yellow Moon's intimate listening room.
- Cobden's rustic THE BLUE BOAR **RESTAURANT AND BAR serves** Cajun cuisine (think étouffée) along with baby back ribs from local caterer The Great Boars of Fire.

STAY

- At ROCKY COMFORT CABINS. an offbeat lodging option is the hobbit-style Cove, a grassroof earthen shelter with round windows and sun tunnels that flood the cabin with light.
- GIANT CITY LODGE offers vintage cabins nestled in the woods with modern conveniences. The stunning MAKANDA INN AND COTTAGES, an eco-friendly retreat located on 18 forest acres, is constructed with all-natural building materials.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (GIANT CITY STATE PARK AND LODGE) JOHN NOLTNER, (WINERIES, CANOE) COURTESY OF IOT, (CANOPY) ED BAUMGARTEN



CHICAGO & BEYOND

Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 43 W. Galena Blvd., Aurora; 630/256-3190, enjoyaurora.com

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors

Bureau 201 N. Franklin Ave., Polo; 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108, visitnorthwestillinois.com

Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau 2304 W. 173rd St., Lansing; 888/ 895-8233, 708/895-8200, visitchicagosouthland.com

Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau 8001 Lincoln Ave., Ste. 715, Skokie; 847/763-0011, visitchicagonorthshore.com

Choose Chicago 301 E. Cermak Rd., Chicago; 312/567-8500, choosechicago.com

DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau 111 S. 2nd St. #202, DeKalb; 877/335-2521, 815/756-1336, dekalbcountycvb.com

DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau 915 Harger Rd., Ste. 120, Oak Brook; 800/ 232-0502, 630/575-8070, discoverdupage.com

Elgin Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 60

S. Grove Ave, Elgin; 800/ 217-5362, 847/695-7540, northernfoxrivervalley.com

Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau

4596 Rte. 20 E., Freeport; 800/369-2955, 815/233-1357, stephenson-county-il.org

Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors

Bureau 15701 Independence Blvd., Romeoville; 800/ 926-2262, 815/588-7940, heritagecorridorcyb.com

Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau 100

Marquette Pl. S, Manteno; 800/747-4837, 815/935-7390, visitkankakeecounty.com

Meet Chicago Northwest 1375 E. Woodfield Rd., Ste. 120, Schaumburg; 800/ 847-4849, 847/490-1010, chicagonorthwest.com

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 102

N. Main St., Rockford; 800/521-0849, 815/963-8111, gorockford.com

Rosemont Convention Bureau 9301 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont: 847/823-2100.

rosemont.com St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau 311 N. 2nd St.,

St. Charles; 800/777-4373, 630/377-6161,

visitstcharles.com

Visit Lake County 5465 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 100, Gurnee; 800/525-3669, 847/662-2700, VisitLakeCounty.org

Visit McHenry County 11879 E. Main St., Huntley; 815/893-6280, visitmchenrycounty.com

Visit Oak Park 1010 Lake St.. Oak Park; 888/625-7275, 708/ 524-7800, visitoakpark.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Macy's on State Street

111 N. State St., Chicago; 312/781-4483

Prairie View North I-57 N., Monee; 309/255-9389

Prairie View South I-57 S., Monee; 309/255-6010

Turtle Creek I-90 E., South Beloit; 815/389-4134

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau 200 Piasa St., Alton; 800/258-6645, 618/ 465-6676, visitalton.com

Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors

Bureau 201 N. Franklin Ave., Polo; 800/678-2108, 815/946-2108. visitnorthwestillinois.com

Galena/Jo Daviess County **Convention and Visitors**

Bureau 720 Park Ave., Galena; 800/747-9377, 815/777-3557, galena.org

Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

2163 E. Main St., Galesburg; 800/916-3330, 309/343-2485, visitgalesburg.com

Henry County Tourism Bureau 244 W. 3rd St., Kewanee: 309/761-8473. visithenrycounty.com

Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 201 S. Lafayette St., Macomb; 309/833-1315, makeitmacomb.com

Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 456 Fulton. Ste. 300, Peoria; 800/747-0302, 309/676-0303, peoria.org

Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau 1601 River Dr. #110, Moline; 800/747-7800, 309/277-0937. visitquadcities.com

Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

532 Gardner Expy., Quincy; 800/978-4748, 217/214-3700, seequincy.com

The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth 4387 N. Illinois St., Ste. 200, Swansea; 800/442-1488, 618/257-1488, thetourismbureau.org

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Homestead I-55 N., Hamel; 618/633-1875

Silver Lake I-70 E., Highland; 618/654-6597

LAND OF LINCOLN

Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors

Bureau 3201 CIRA Rd., Ste. 201, Bloomington; 800/433-8226. 309/665-0033, visitbn.org

Danville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

100 W. Main St., Danville; 800/383-4386, 217/442-2096, danvilleareainfo.com

Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 202 E. North St., Decatur; 800/331-4479, 217/423-7000, decaturcvb.com

Destination Logan County

1555 5th St., Lincoln; 217/732-8687. destinationlogancountyil.com

Effingham Convention and Visitors Bureau

1505 Hampton Dr., Effingham; 800/772-0750, 217/342-5310, visiteffinghamil.com

Jacksonville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

310 E. State St., Jacksonville: 800/593-5678, 217/243-5678, iacksonvilleil.org

Shelby County Office of Tourism 315 E. Main St., Shelbyville; 217/774-2244, lakeshelbyville.com

Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau 109 N. 7th St., Springfield; 800/545-7300, 217/789-2360, visit-springfieldillinois.com

The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth 4387 N. Illinois St., Ste. 200, Swansea; 800/ 442-1488, 618/257-1488, thetourismbureau.org

Visit Champaign County 108 S. Neil St., Champaign; 800/369-6151, 217/351-4133, visitchampaigncounty.org

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Cumberland Road 1-70 W., Marshall; 217/826-3400

Salt Kettle I-74 W., Oakwood; 217/354-2117

TRAILS TO ADVENTURE

Carbondale Tourism

126 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale; 800/526-1500, 618/529-4451, carbondaletourism.org

Mt. Vernon Convention and **Visitors Bureau** 200

Potomac Blvd., Mt. Vernon: 800/252-5464, 618/242-3151, mtvernon.com

Southernmost Illinois

Tourism Bureau 1000 N. Main St., Cottage #1, Anna; 800/248-4373, 618/833-9928, southernmostillinois.com

The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth 4387 N. Illinois St., Ste. 200, Swansea; 800/442-1488. 618/257-1488. thetourismbureau.org

Williamson County Tourism Bureau 1602 Sioux Dr., Marion; 800/433-7399 618/997-3690, visitsi.com

TOURISM INFO CENTERS

Fort Massac 5402 Hwy. 45 S., Metropolis; 618/524-4350

Rend Lake North 1-57 N., Whittington; 618/435-4155

Rend Lake South 1-57 S., Whittington; 618/629-2774





PRAIRIE STATE MOMENTS



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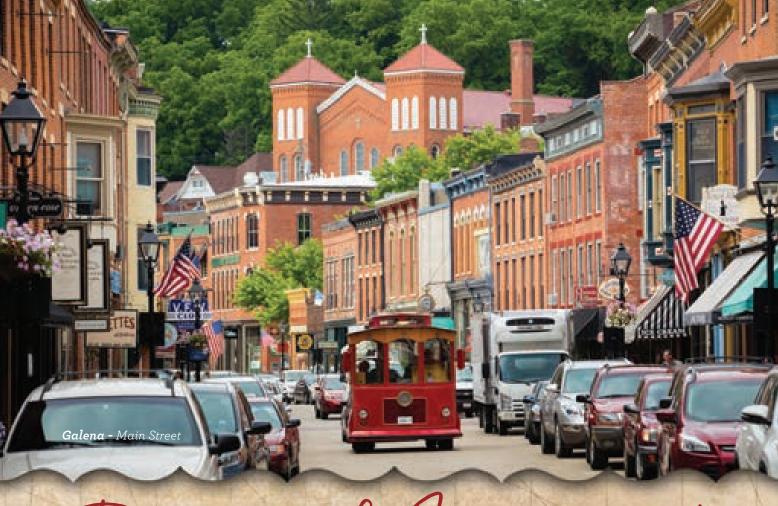


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GreatRiverRoad-Illinois.com





